

Information on the CCM Program

Applications, a list of CCMs, and additional materials on certification may be found on the AMS Web site at: <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html> or by contacting AMS Headquarters:

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The American Meteorological Society (AMS)

The American Meteorological Society promotes the development and dissemination of information and education on the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences and the advancement of their professional applications. Founded in 1919, AMS has a membership of more than 11,000 professionals, professors, students, and weather enthusiasts. AMS publishes nine atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic journals — in print and online — sponsors more than 12 conferences annually, and offers numerous programs and services.

For further information regarding society activities, membership, or general inquiries please send an email to amsinfo@ametsoc.org or visit our Web site at www.ametsoc.org.



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Year of the CCM



50th Anniversary
of the
AMS Certified
Consulting
Meteorologist (CCM)
Program

1957 - 2007

History of the CCM Program

In an age of expanded environmental technology, the scope and detail of meteorological applications within agriculture, business, industry, and various sectors of government operations have brought increasing demand for specialized services by meteorologists. These services extend beyond the traditional public service functions and statutory responsibilities of the National Weather Service, and the private practice of consulting meteorology developed in answer to some of the needs that have arisen. In meteorology, as in other technical professions such as engineering and medicine, individuals form and maintain close contact with the public, and in doing so are representatives of their profession.

The AMS recognized a need for a professional certification program for the advancement of professional ideals within meteorology and within the other spheres of activity in which meteorologists participate. Professional certification, as part of a national program of the AMS, to be administered by a Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists (CCMs), was proposed in a report submitted to the Council by the AMS Committee on Industrial Meteorology in the fall of 1956. The recommendation was approved with slight modifications by the Council in their vote on 8 March 1957. The Council approved the formation of the Board. The Board, as initially comprised, was: Henry T. Harrison, Robert D. Elliott, Alfred H. Glenn, E. Wendell Hewson, and Woodrow C. Jacobs. The appointment by the Council of Elliott, Glenn, and Harrison as Certified Consulting Meteorologists was to fulfill the requirement that three members of the Board must be so rated.

The first meeting of the Board was held at Denver, Colorado, on 24 and 25 October with Harrison, Elliott, Glenn, and Hewson in attendance. Terms of reference and examination procedures were established. In addition, plans were laid for advising the profession and the public as to the nature and purpose of certification. The original announcement was made in the November 1957 *Bulletin*.

In a continuing effort to improve the program, the Board constantly assesses its procedures in order to provide the CCM community, the AMS membership and the public with improved knowledge and

understanding of the program, and to ensure the objectivity and fairness of the policies and procedures.

2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the CCM Program. To date, more than 600 individuals have been awarded the prestigious Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) designation.

What is a CCM?



Fundamentally, the consulting meteorologist is a professional meteorologist whose practice is founded upon an understanding of the atmosphere and its behavior and upon the beneficial application of his or her abilities to the affairs of humankind. Moreover, these qualities are founded upon knowledge of a more general nature that enables the consulting meteorologist to address a broader spectrum of related activities.

CCMs are employed in government agencies, private consultant companies, industry trade associations, large and small national and multi-national corporations, academic institutions, and research organizations.

CCMs have many areas of expertise including applied meteorology and climatology, forensic meteorology, air pollution, expert testimony, and forecasting and weather prediction to name a few.



Some CCMs are employed as experts in specific industries, some are self-employed full-time consultants, while others undertake consulting over and above their regular employment. In any case, the essential attributes of the certified consulting meteorologist are a specialized knowledge combined with a broad background, an ingrained concept of service, and a clear and unwavering adherence to the rules of professional conduct.

Requirements for Certification

The qualifications for the CCM are centered around the fundamental characteristics of:

1) Knowledge - To attain this recognition, an individual should have a comprehensive, although not necessarily a detailed, understanding of the main aspects of meteorological knowledge. Qualification on the basis of knowledge is, in first measure, indicated by college education, including successful completion of courses in meteorology, meeting national standards for professional employment. As a minimum, individuals must meet the educational criteria currently required for AMS membership. A written examination on various aspects of science and the profession of meteorology is required.

2) Experience - Qualification on the basis of experience requires a minimum of five years of work at the professional level in meteorology or a related field. Substitution of a postgraduate degree below the doctorate is permitted for one year of experience, and substitution of the doctorate degree in meteorology for up to two years is allowable.

3) Character - In the matter of qualification on basis of character, an individual must name at least three professional references, preferably including one Certified Consulting Meteorologist. The individual's record of professional work should clearly indicate that he or she maintains those three traits for conduct complying fully with the Society's Guidelines for Professional Conduct and applying generally in public contacts.

The three qualifications referenced above comprise a standard to which an individual seeking this recognition should aspire.